

NEBRASKA WEATHER & CROPS

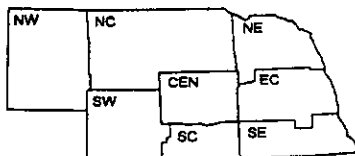
For Period Ending March 27, 2000

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National Agricultural Statistics Service
U S Department of Agriculture
and U S Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Admin
National Weather Service



Nebraska Department of Agriculture
Division of Agr'l Statistics
Cooperative Extension Service
Institute of Agriculture
and Natural Resources--UN-L

Issued by the
NEBRASKA
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE

Issue: 04-2000

Released: 3/27/2000 3:00 p.m.

WEATHER

Temperatures averaged above normals across the State for the entire month, ranging from two to fifteen degrees above normal. Moisture received was general, but light, over the State.

GENERAL

Although some moisture was received during March, very dry conditions prevail, according to the Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service. Moisture received during March (averaging just over one inch) has been a benefit to the wheat crop and provided an improved outlook for pastures and spring planted crops. However, soil moisture condition reports revealed substantial rainfall over the crop season will be necessary. Producer activities included shredding stalks, anhydrous ammonia applications, and other crop planting preparations.

CROPS

Winter Wheat crop rated 3% very poor, 11% poor, 24% fair, 59% good, 3% excellent. The crop has shown improvement over the past month, but additional moisture will be needed in most areas.

Oat planting has begun across the State with progress rated at 26%

Hay supplies, as well as feed grain supplies, were mostly adequate as spring green-up approaches

LIVESTOCK, PASTURE & RANGE

Weather conditions for calving this past winter have been open and mild enough to allow average to below average calf losses. Calving was 66% complete to date. Cattle and calves condition rated 8% fair, 62% good, and 30% excellent. As pastures begin the spring growth, pasture condition was rated at 13% very poor, 20% poor, 39% fair, 26% good, and 2% excellent.

FIELD WORK PROGRESS AS OF MARCH 25, 2000	AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS DISTRICTS								STATE	LAST MONTH	LAST YEAR	AVER- AGE
	NW	NC	NE	C	EC	SW	SC	SE				
	PERCENT											
% Oats Sown AS OF MARCH 27, 2000	49	10	28	20	22	11	27	44	26	n/a	6	4
% Cows Calved	82	65	56	74	60	63	61	63	66	26	66	n/a
SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION AND SUPPLIES OF FEED GRAINS AND HAY AS OF MARCH 27, 2000												
Topsoil Moisture - Very short	2	42	46	48	23	16	0	2	22	n/a	1	
- Short	7	56	24	35	35	33	10	48	32	n/a	8	
- Adequate	87	2	30	17	42	51	90	49	45	n/a	74	
- Surplus	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	n/a	17	
Subsoil Moisture- Very Short	2	20	55	25	56	17	5	56	30	n/a	1	
- Short	13	61	45	58	39	36	82	37	47	n/a	12	
- Adequate	85	15	0	15	5	45	13	7	22	n/a	80	
- Surplus	0	4	0	2	0	2	0	0	1	n/a	7	
Feed Grains - Very Short	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	n/a	
- Short	2	3	0	8	4	0	0	0	2	3	n/a	
- Adequate	94	84	70	70	88	57	83	43	74	70	n/a	
- Surplus	4	13	30	22	8	43	17	57	24	25	n/a	
Hay and Forage - Very Short	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	1	2	n/a	
- Short	0	0	0	8	16	0	8	16	6	6	n/a	
- Adequate	80	87	70	72	57	77	92	76	77	72	n/a	
- Surplus	20	13	30	20	23	23	0	8	16	20	n/a	

n/a = not available

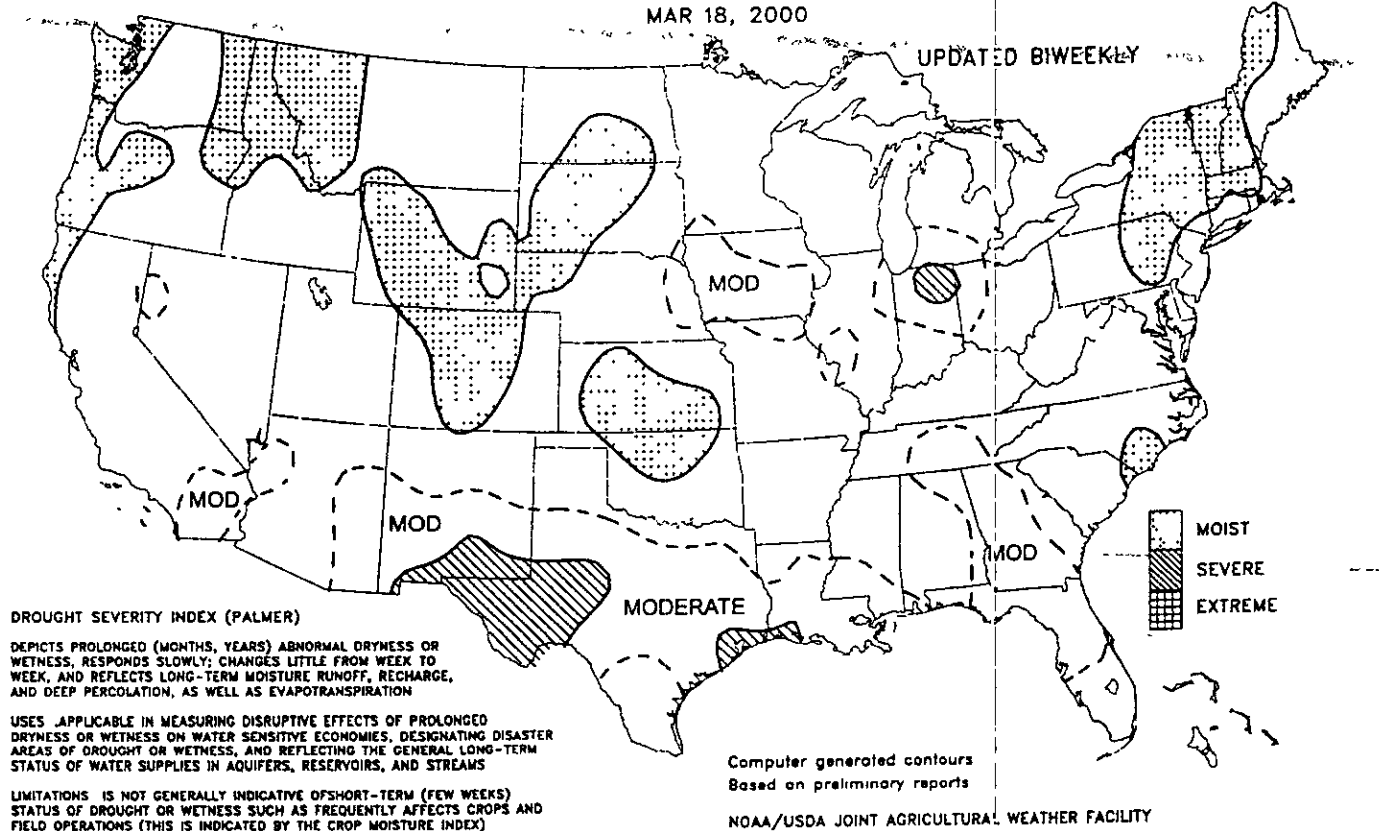
Periodical Postage
Paid at
Lincoln, Nebraska

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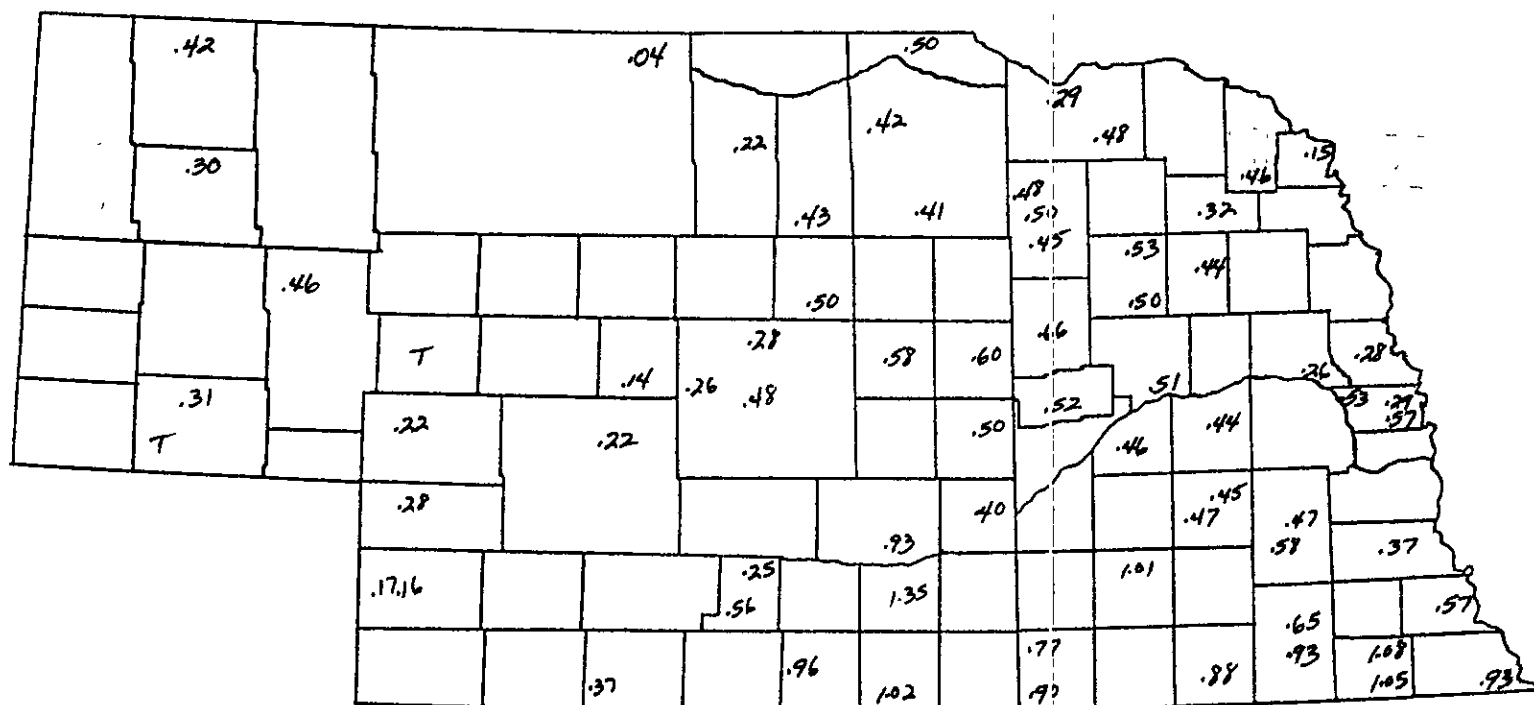
NEBRASKA WEATHER & CROPS (ISSN 0745-0117) is published weekly April-November and monthly December-March by the Nebraska Department of Agriculture, Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), 100 Centennial Mall North, Room 298 Federal Building, Lincoln, NE 68508. Subscription is free to survey respondents upon request to NASS, P.O. Box 81069, Lincoln, NE 68501, or by calling (402) 437-5541 and available for \$15.00 per year to non-reporters. It is also available free by polling our FAX at (402) 437-5547 after 3:30 p.m. CT. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to NEBRASKA WEATHER & CROPS P.O. Box 81069, Lincoln, NE 68501.

DROUGHT SEVERITY LONG TERM PALMER MAR 18, 2000

UPDATED BIWEEKLY



PRECIPITATION MAP FOR WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 2000



TEMPERATURE AND PRECIPITATION DATA FOR WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 2000

WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 2000						
Station		Temperature				Precipitation
		Extremes		Mean	Departure	Total Inches
		Max	Min			
NW	Chadron	68	20	41	---	.42
	Scottsbluff	66	20	40	+2	.31
	Sidney	65	17	40	---	T
NC	Valentine	65	14	41	+5	.04
NE	Norfolk	67	29	45	+7	.53
	Sioux City	68	31	44	+5	.15
CEN	Grand Island	67	28	44	+4	.40
	Ord	69	20	44	---	.58
EC	Lincoln	67	28	45	+4	.47
	Omaha	67	32	46	+5	.29
SW	Imperial	68	18	43	---	.16
	North Platte	69	15	42	+4	.22